

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3525
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2000
MODERNISATION OF IRON ORE MINES
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Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Iron Ore Mines in India;
- (b) whether most of these mines are not modernised;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore;
- (d) whether there is a growing demand for modernisation of these iron ore mines; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in that direction?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY)

- (a) Indian Bureau of Mines have reported that the total number (provisional) of iron ore mines in India during 1999-2000 is 213.
- (b) Yes, Sir. Most of the non-captive iron ore mines in the country are not modernised (mechanised).
- (c) Out of the 213 reported mines, about 85 mines are modernised (mechanised) and the rest 128 are not modernised and mainly fall under private sector. These are mined manually extracting float ore by digging shallow pits or by forming regular benches of 1 to 1.5 m. height or so. The loading is manual and dispatches are made through hired trucks.
- (d) Indian Bureau of Mines has no specific information as mostly they are in private sector.
- (e) The Govt. has liberalised the mineral policy and has suitably amended the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) (MMRD) Act, 1957 for development of mining industry and enhancement of production including that in iron ore mines.